

The Staff and The Sword Ministry

Relationship Reports

RELATIONSHIP REPORTS February 1984 to January 1985

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By
Chuck-JOHNEL Youngbrandt

RELATIONSHIP



PART 15 THE LET GO HOLD

HOLDING ON & LETTING GO

Jesus' Love HOLDS EACH OF US in a sweet and gentle way, and we know we are held, loved, and cared for. Yet, in another way, He LETS US GO, giving us the choice to take His other Hand.

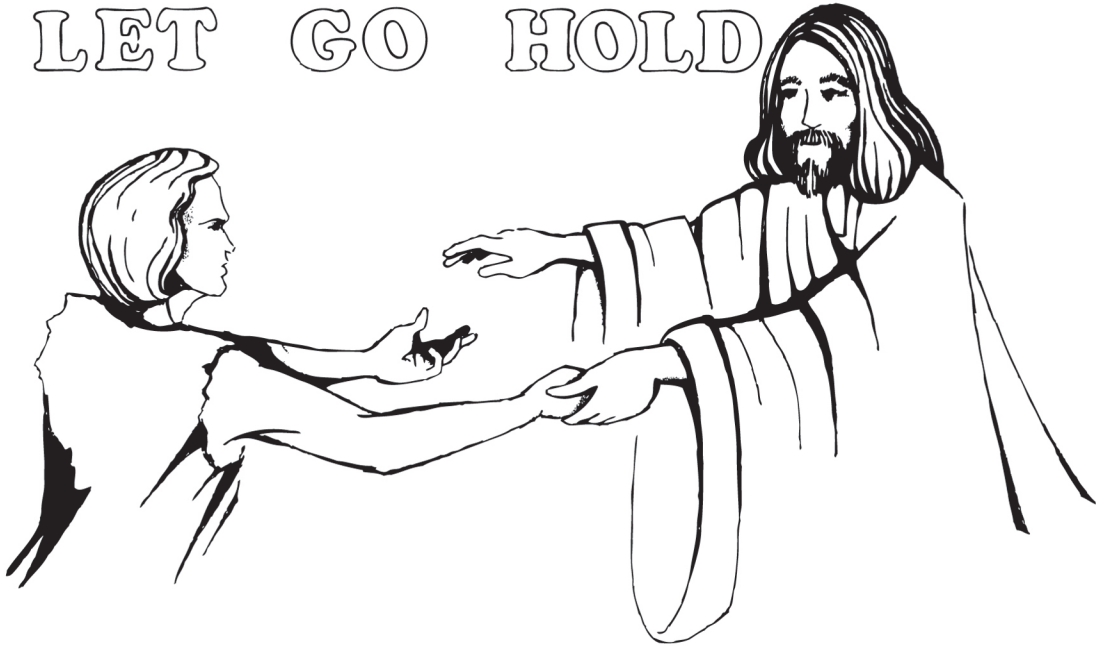
It is His Desire to embrace us wholly with His Love, but His same Love lets us be free to decide to take His Hand or not.

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THE LET GO HOLD



Jesus does not compel us or threaten us with dire consequences. Instead, He is patient and kind, lowly and meek. Some of us are so busy with deep truths about Jesus' Word that we overlook something truly blessed about Him: as we give to Him, He gives back again to us.

We know that Jesus gives us all things, but do we know that of His Love He also gives us things that are not His Perfect Will?

THE MEANING OF "YOU MAY"

A time back (and for a season) I would ask the Lord if I could do this or that. Jesus, each time, sweetly said, "**YOU MAY.**" Then, at other times Jesus would say, "**IT'S MY WILL.**" Frankly, it took me a time to realize there was a difference: a big difference!

As my relationship with Jesus grew, my love of Him reached the point where there was nothing He could not ask of me that I would not do. Oh, I fussed with some things He asked. I even argued with Him. Yet, all the time, I **KNEW THAT HE KNEW** that I would ultimately obey Him.

Jesus is also our **FRIEND**. We can argue with him, but would any of us deny a friend we love anything? That is where I'm at with Jesus. I know that He **IS GOD, LORD, SAVIOR, and KING**. I revere Him highly. Yet, at the very same time, I know Jesus is also my **FRIEND**. As a result, I feel

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free to express my feelings about somethings He asks. When I've had my say, my last comment is always, "OK Lord, when do you want me to start?"

Someone may say, "You are not fully yielded". Perhaps—perhaps not! In the end, it is ALL ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

So, getting back to the question of YIELDEDNESS. Well, I am not a robot, and JESUS AND I have a RELATIONSHIP. Being open with Jesus is important. If He asks a hard thing of us and we say "Yes, Lord"—but, inside say, "No way am I going to do that"—do we think for a moment He does not know this?

It is always best TO BE HOT or TO BE COLD about something with JESUS. More, it is always best to talk things over with JESUS. When Jesus asks something of us, it can easily be reasoned out in a talk with Him. Yet, to say YES but really mean NO is a form of "LUKEWARMNESS" and is also dishonest—when we do that we have essentially BROKEN OUR RELATIONSHIP with Jesus.

PERFECT WILL vs. PERMISSIVE WILL

Jesus gives to all of us ALL THE TIME. But, at times and in special ways, He gives to us our INNER DESIRES when we also give to Him. Yielding things in ourselves that are hard to do. The surprise here is this: JESUS does grant us things that are not His PERFECT WILL, but instead are really in His PERMISSIVE WILL.

Again, one day I asked Jesus if I could do a certain thing, Jesus said sweetly "**YOU MAY.**" I pondered His reply, discerning something about "**YOU MAY**" and asked, "Is this your Perfect Will?" Jesus simply said, "**NO.**" Surprised, I asked Jesus why He did not tell me what His Perfect Will was in this respect? Jesus said, "**YOU MUST DESIRE MY PERFECT WILL TO KNOW IT.**"

Well, it was a shock to hear that reply from JESUS. I became aware from that day that Jesus will, in Love and patience, grant us things that are not His Perfect Will, so long as they are not harmful to us. As we yield of ourselves to Jesus, there are areas we hold out on and do not yield to Him. Jesus receives what we give up, and, in the kind of love we hardly know, kindly grants us desires that fall OUTSIDE of His Perfect Will for us. As we grow in knowledge of His Love and Person, we desire to do more. And, in the day we wish to draw the nearer to Him, in that day as we ask, He will reveal those areas when before He would not.

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TOTAL “YIELDEDNESS”

At any one time in my life in Christ, I have yielded as much of myself to Him as I was able. But, as much as was done and as much as I did yield to Him, it was not TOTAL “YIELDEDNESS” Jesus receives what we can give up, and His Love and Grace covers the rest. We will not even be aware of this, thinking we have ARRIVED. But, in the day our love of Him grows the more, we will KNOW there is more to surrender and find the strength of love in us then to surrender more or not. Yet, whether we give up the more or not, His Love holds us still, and He does not push us, or compel us, in anywise.

I found, at times, an awareness of certain areas that should be yielded of Him but for reason of strong desires or fear, was unable to yield, let go to Jesus. These moments were always fleeting, never remembered until the day I drew closer to Him, in a greater love for Jesus, it was not seen clearly, and known.

LET GO-HOLD ON DECISIONS

So, as we grow in love of Jesus we come to know what is NOT LET GO to God, and ever face the decision: TO LET GO or TO HOLD ON The same Love that Jesus has for us that would not force us to see what we could not see, will not force us to LET GO what we do not want to LET GO. He loves us still and blesses us the more.

Some Christians, who have grown deeply in Christ, have come face to face with this (just I have) and are unable to LET GO of a thing. These did not have the same loving patience with themselves as Jesus has. As a result, some of these pulled away from Jesus.

When any of us face a thing and see that it is unyielded to God, we ought suffer no self-condemnation—for Jesus does not condemn. Jesus holds us still, Loves as before and more and with patience works righteousness in us in sweet and sure ways. If we cannot LET GO today, His Love holds us gently until the day we can LET GO.

So, Jesus ever HOLDS US WITH LOVE and ever LETS GO to our free will—for we are truly free in Christ.

HOW TO LET GO TO JESUS

If we find something in our inner self, a preference, a desire, an attitude that is not yielded to God’s Perfect Will for us, how do we LET GO?

The Christian that is outwardly SUBMITTED to God’s Perfect Will can be deeply shaken to find

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they are not wholly inwardly YIELDED. In my experience, I have found that, while I desire to do God's Will, in areas of my inner self (the soul) I wanted to do HIS WILL MY WAY—rather than HIS WILL HIS WAY.

I also found that I had prayed these inner desires, preferences, attitudes into my soul. So, once seeing this, I knew that I could also pray His Perfect Will into my soul the same way. It simply takes patience, prayer, and time.

Jesus is patient. He has time. And, if we pray to be found wholly yielded to His Perfect Will, in His time, He will do it. And, we will easily LET GO!

ALL FOR NOW—MORE TO FOLLOW AS JESUS LEADS

Well, so ends the series of Relationship Reports (February 1984 to January 1985). It is my prayer and my hope that this series of reports has blessed you and has brought you closer in YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. After all, IT IS ALL ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

Jesus is ALWAYS teaching us—there is always something more to learn as we walk day-by-day with Him. So, as I noted at the start of these reports, I may, from time-to-time, add new things to this series of reports as Jesus leads me to do and as time permits. As Jesus continues to teach me, I will continue to share what I have learned along the WAY WITH HIM with you.

God Bless,

Chuck-JOHNEL